



Welcome to Köping!

Information for recent
arrivals in Sweden and in
Köping

Engelska

KÖP!NG

Foreword

Welcome to Köping!

We are happy and proud that you have chosen to come to live here, and we hope you will enjoy your life here with us.

If you have only recently come to Sweden, it may be difficult for you to know how to become part of everyday life and get on in society. You may have many questions that you want the answers to. For example, what to do in order to work or study, or how to find a place to live?

This leaflet explains what we can help you with in Köping and in Sweden.

We wish you a good life in the municipality of Köping!

Welcome!

Elizabeth Salomonsson

Chair of the Municipal Executive Board



Elizabeth Salomonsson, Municipal Commissioner and Chair of the Municipal Executive Board, on the steps of the town hall together with David Schanzer-Larsen, acting Head of the Municipal Administration.

Working and studying

Schools

Children go to different schools depending on their age:

- Pre-school (förskola) is for children between 1 and 5.
- The pre-school year (förskoleklass) is for children who are 6.
- Compulsory school (grundskola) is for children between 7 and 16.
- Recreational centres (fritidshem) are for children up to and including year 3 of compulsory school, who may spend time there before and after school if their guardians work or study.
- Open recreational activities (öppen fritidsverksamhet) are for children in years 4–6 of compulsory school, who may spend time there after school. There are also youth clubs (fritidsgårdar) for children between 12 and 18.

As a guardian, you must apply for a place for your children at schools and recreational centres.

Education and training for adults

The Kompetenscenter in Köping offers courses in Swedish for Immigrants (Svenska för invandrare, SFI). These courses are intended for adults who need to learn the Swedish language. You can apply for a place on an SFI course on the website of the municipality of Köping.

Working

People at the Employment Office (Arbetsförmedlingen) can give you information about how to apply for a job. They will help you write applications for different jobs.

If you do not have a job but receive income support (försörjningsstöd), people at the Job Centre (Jobbcenter) will give you help on how to start working or studying.



Living in Köping

There are different ways of living in the municipality of Köping. If you are looking for a place to live, you have the choice of either renting or buying a home.

If you prefer to rent, you should contact a landlord who rents out homes. If you prefer to buy, you should contact an estate agent.

The website of the municipality of Köping contains information about local estate agents and landlords.

Culture and leisure

There are many clubs in the municipality of Köping that you might want to join. If you like sport or music, for instance, there might be a club for you.

You can visit the indoor swimming pool to have a bath and learn how to swim. There are certain rules that you have to follow there.

You can borrow books at the library. To do that you need a library card. The card is free and you can get it at the library.

Emergencies


If there is a fire, if there is a medical emergency or if you need the help of the police, you can call 112.

In some dangerous situations, for example if there is a gas leak, an important message called VMA is sent out. This is a signal which can be heard all over Köping. It first sounds for 7 seconds and is then silent for 14 seconds. Then it starts over again.

When you hear the VMA signal, you must:

- Go indoors.
- Close all windows, doors and air intakes.
- Listen to local public radio (Sveriges Radio P4 lokal) or watch TV to get information.

The VMA signal is tested in March, June, September and December. It sounds at 3:00 p.m. (15:00) on the first Monday of those months that is not a public holiday.



Important words

Democracy (demokrati)

Sweden is a democracy. Living in a democracy means that you have the right to express your opinion. But you also have a duty to respect other people's opinions and let them express them.

Every four years there is an election in Sweden. Then the people in Sweden get to decide who will make important decisions. Swedish citizens then vote for different parties and persons. Those who are elected are called politicians. They make decisions in the municipal assemblies, the county assemblies and the national parliament (Riksdagen).

Tax (skatt)

If you earn money in Sweden, you have to pay tax. The money which is paid in tax in Sweden is used, among other things, to create protection for those who live in the country. For example, this protection means that there are various benefits that you can get if you fall ill or have difficulty paying for your home.

Population registration (folkbokföring)

Those who live in Sweden are recorded in the population-registration database. When you are recorded there, you get a personal identity number (personnummer). This number includes your date and year of birth as well as four digits which are called your birth number. If you move to a different address, change your name or get married, you must report this to the population-registration database.

Important government agencies

Social Security Agency (Försäkringskassan)

The Social Security Agency pays money to people who need help with their finances. The money paid out is called benefits (bidrag). For example, you can get a benefit if you are ill or if you need help when you have just moved to Sweden.

Tax Agency (Skatteverket)

The Tax Agency takes care of the taxes that are paid in Sweden. It is also in charge of population registration. If you are recorded in the Swedish population-registration database, the Tax Agency can also make an identity card for you.



We chose Köping

Inas Al-Lami & Ali Sellman

Inas Al-Lami and Ali Sellman are married and both work as dentists. They have four children and live together in a house in Köping. Ali first came alone to Sweden. Then he lived with a friend. When the rest of the family came to Sweden they started looking for a flat. They looked at adverts and asked everybody they met about flats.

‘We went to see landlords, spoke to them and told them what we were looking for’, Inas says.

Inas and Ali have learnt Swedish by studying it. Inas took an SFI course and Ali took a language course organised by the Swedish Migration Agency. While they were learning Swedish, they were also on language-focused work placement (språkpraktik) at dental surgeries.

‘Language-focused work placement is good because you get to hear Swedish all day. I made lots of notes and observations’, Inas says.

Ali explains that the Swedish language is the key to becoming part of Swedish society. He says that you have to believe in the possibility of being integrated.

‘Don’t listen to people with negative views. Keep struggling to learn the language’, he says.



Inas Al-Lami and Ali Sellman both work as dentists

Tips for learning Swedish

- Watch Swedish TV or English TV with Swedish subtitles.
- Read books in Swedish.
- Read Swedish newspapers and magazines on the internet.
- Try to get a language-focused work placement.
- Ask people to correct you when you make mistakes.
- Speak only Swedish, even with people from your own country.
- Visit language cafés.
- Apply for a language friend (språkvän).

Contact information

Municipality of Köping, telephone: 0221-250 00



Please visit the website of the municipality of Köping. It contains more information about what we do. There is also information about how to apply for a place at a school for yourself or your children and how to join various activities.

www.koping.se

Other important websites

www.informationsverige.se (General information about Swedish society)

www.arbetsformedlingen.se (Employment Office)

www.skatteverket.se (Tax Agency)

www.forsakringskassan.se (Social Security Agency)





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